



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Humane Canada issues statement on the passing of Kiska the Orca

March 10, 2023 – Ottawa, Ont. Humane Canada is saddened and outraged by the passing of Kiska – also known as the “loneliest Orca in the world”. Kiska reportedly died from a bacterial infection yesterday after living in captivity for over 43 years. This news is heartbreaking to everyone who has spent years advocating for her freedom and release.

Kiska, the last captive orca in Canada, was approximately 47 years old and had been at Marineland since she was captured in the North Atlantic Ocean in 1979. For the last 12 years of her life, she was held in captivity alone, in direct opposition to her social instincts and the deep family connections she would have experienced in the wild. She suffered greatly in private ownership and miserable conditions, despite Ontario banning Orca captivity in 2015 and whale and dolphin captivity being banned at the federal level in 2019. Both of these laws grandfathered existing animals in captivity.

"Poor Kiska became the infamous example for what “grandfathering clauses” in legislation mean to the animals who are left behind to suffer until they die," said Barbara Cartwright, CEO of Humane Canada.

Kiska had been held captive for the pleasure of people in the name of profit for over 40 years in a tank and had endured more emotional and physical pain than most people could stand to endure. Humanity failed this intelligent and incredible being, but we can at least be thankful that no other orca will suffer the same fate in our country again.

"There are likely more than 50 beluga whales and dolphins still being held in Marineland – all “grandfathered” in. These animals need to be retired. We need a full, transparent necropsy report and Marineland must be held accountable with a thorough investigation to determine if they caused unnecessary pain and suffering which is illegal in Canada," explained Cartwright.

We ask each and every person to remember Kiska's face before you consider visiting any facility that showcases captive cetaceans or other animals for your amusement. We must do what we can to stop it for other captive animals here at home and across the world.

Rest in Peace Kiska.

Media Contacts:

Kristina Koehn Merchant
Marketing and Communications Manager
Humane Canada
kristina@humanecanada.ca

Barbara Cartwright
CEO
Humane Canada
barbara@humanecanada.ca

ABOUT HUMANE CANADA

Humane Canada, the federation of SPCAs and humane societies, brings together organizations that work with and care for animals to end animal cruelty, improve animal protection and promote the humane treatment of all animals. Humane Canada served on the Ontario Technical Advisory Council to ban Orca captivity in 2015 and helped introduce the federal bill that would ultimately ban the captivity of whales and dolphins in Canada. For more information, visit <https://www.humanecanada.ca/>.